

**From:** gbrooks8510@excite.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 1:26pm  
**Subject:** Please leave Microsoft alone!

**CC:** activism@moraldefense.com@inetgw, letters@capitalis...

First of all, thank you for letting me submit this opinion.

My main objection to this case is that it was brought to help Microsoft's competition, not to help American consumers. The intent of antitrust is to protect the consumer. As a consumer myself of both Microsoft (hereafter "MS") and other software, I fail to see how MS has hurt me. Does it injure me in any way to give me free software? I am capable of not using it if I don't like it - which is, in fact, what I do with all those free AOL CDs!

In my job, I now use the MS Office Suite on a daily basis. Before we had this software, life was much more complicated. The files wouldn't copy, for example, from Paradox (a database) to Lotus 123 (a spreadsheet). I have heard people arguing that their company offers a better product than MS. That is for the market to decide, not the courts. For my purposes, compatability between the applications is very important, so I choose MS.

Success should not be punished in America! Bill Gates was not born "King of Software", he and his company worked hard for years to become the leader. They should be rewarded as the market sees fit. Windows 2000 and Windows ME will be obsolete soon, and MS has no guarantee that the MS replacement will be the what the consumer wants in 2004. MS will rise or fall according to the will of the marketplace. Any of the competing companies could come up with a better replacement operating system. At least one already exists: LINUX, and it is available to anyone FREE for the downloading! How can MS compete with that? But it does!

Please let Microsoft continue improving our lives, our work, and helping to keep the USA the world economic leader!

Brooks Gatlin  
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